

September 26, 2003

2000524

I, Letha K. Butler, Councilman for the Town of Maringouin address 10770 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Maringouin, La, offer the following statement:

Lee Butler is my spouse. He is an employee with the Town of Maringouin. The Town of Maringouin hired Mr. Butler some years before the citizen of this town elected me to serve as Councilman.

In January 2003 Mayor John Overton appointed me chairman of the Personnel Committee with the knowledge that Mr. Butler was my spouse. I also held this position for two terms under the previous Mayor's administration.

One duty of the Chairman of the Personnel Committee is to reward employees for a job well done. On February 3, 2003, I proposed to the Board of Aldermen, a cost of living increase for the town employees for their consideration. This consideration was for the board to discuss, table, reject or approve. This board was aware that I would be abstaining from any vote concerning Mr. Butler's salary. The Town of Maringouin, Board of Aldermen voted to approve this increase because of a job well done by the employees of the Town of Maringouin. The official records signed by the Mayor and Clerk confirmed that I abstained from this vote.

Sometime during the month of September (seven months later) Mayor John Overton questioned the ethics board whether I may vote on the budget for the Town of Maringouin when my spouse is employed as the town's Maintenance Supervisor.

For the past eight and a half years I have been on the Town Council. This has not been an issue or conflict with the previous Mayor, the previous or present council members or the citizen of the Town of Maringouin. If this was a conflict, the citizen of the Town of Maringouin would not have re-elected me into office for a third term.

The town's budget is over a million dollars. The citizen of the Town of Maringouin elected me into office to be a voice for them. A big part of this voice includes voting on the town's budget.

The substantial economic interest of this budget is for the benefit of the citizens of the town which outweighs any matter concerning the interest of Mr. Butler's salary.

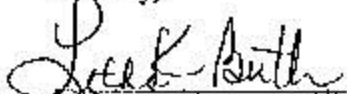
Any past salary increases given to Mr. Butler was done on the previous Mayor's recommendation and the board's approval, which I abstained from voting. Because I have never voted of any salary increases for Mr. Butler, I feel that there is not conflict or issue but simply misunderstanding. I feel that I can cast a vote on the budget that is fair, objective and in the best interest of the public.

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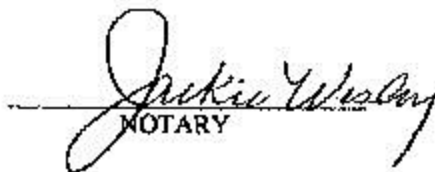
If Mayor John Overton still has issue with the appointment he made and me trying to do the job he appointed me to do, I would recommend that he consider retracting his appointment and reappointing me to another committee. I was elected to serve the people of the Town of Maringouin. I will step up to the plate on any committee he deems fit for me to chair. And I intend to do it honestly, without an evil mind or vindictiveness in my heart. I am a public servant.

Sincerely,



Letha K. Butler

Chairman of the Personnel Committee

  
NOTARY